Spencer Mission C.N
Jan 20th 1839

Dear Brother Kennedy
& members of the Comitte of F.M.

It was with pleasure & thanksgiving that I received your favor of Nov 20th.

As for the last few months our Missionary Magazines have filled our hearts with what the Lord is doing for his church in preparing the way for her to go up & take possession. My mind has often turned to Princeton & to your loved Comitte & wondered who were expecting to go forth in answer to the many calls, & then you have had my remembrance while engaged in my duties here, while in the Sanctuary & the closet, praying that God would incline the hearts of many of you to go.

It was in the midst of such thoughts & prayers that I received your letter with the welcome intelligence that six of your number ~~had~~ saw the path of duty leading to a foreign field. I trust that since that time many

Yours fellow laborer in the vineyard of the Lord
Sheldon Jackson

more may be divinely lead in y same direction.

You wish my first impressions Permit me to say at y outset that y Indians Missions are conducted on an entirely different plan from y Missions in India, China & elsewhere. The policy of the Board here is to build up large Schools making preaching to the natives a secondary object. Which works this way, In y 4 months I have been here, we have been so tied down to the School, that y teachers have not preached among the people a single time, & y Superintendant but two or three times. I like y plan of y Schools very much. They have already accomplished a great — very great work for this people, but I do not like y plan of sending ordained ministers to these Schools

At this Station we ~~t~~have three ordained Ministers, (Superintendant & 2 Teachers) Any intelligent layman can teach as well here as a Minister. For my school (which is the advanced one, ~~to~~

has not yet arrived at the rule of three in Davies Arithmetic, but half way through Common Geography & grammar with Spelling, reading, & writing

Under this State of things Bro Frothingham refused to teach another year & asked for an appointment as Evangelist to the natives,

I have Concluded that Since a Layman can be had, & do my duty here as well, if not better than myself, & Since the Calls for Ministerial labor are so pressing in our own land & foreign Countries — I have conclud not to remain another year, & have sent my resignation to the Board

I write thus plainly that any Brother looking towards this field may know the State of the case

It is true that. Bro F, myself & others who have been sent out here to take Charge of a School, have had added to our duties, the pastoral care of Sixtown Church. But the appointment is only in name, I have not yet preached once to the church, & none before me have been able to take both School & Ch. The School

takes up all y time. ~~All who~~ The Board
in N Y City will doubtless tell you that
it can be done, as they did me & others,
But all who have tried it, & Missionaries
resident in this nation from thirty to 40
years & intimately accquainted with
y practical workings of y Schools will
~~all~~ tell you that it is not practicable
— & almost an impossibility
We are tied down to our boys from 4½ am
to 8 Pm, & then have to watch them
nights. This six days in y week —
Then on Sabbath we have a morning
& afternoon Sabbath School with them.
Where is the time we could get away to preach
much less visit the people of our charge?
These Schools are doing great good, but
I hold that laymen should be sent to them
If any of you can get an appointment
as Evangelist out here, free from y School
I would advise you by all means to come
for there is great need of preaching to y
masses. But if not, I would not advise
any to come as Teacher. I write you as
Brethren, just as I wish someone had
written me. For more particular information
I shall be glad to hear from any of you —
I do not remain in y School because, I feel that
I ought to preach & y School is too confining to my
health. & I do not remain in the nation because
there is no probability of getting an appointment as
an Evangelist, but I hope to work as a Missionary
elsewhere. I am often with you in thought & at
y throne of Grace, especially in Sab eve prayer meeting
I rejoice with you, in y large accessions to your
numbers & hope y blessings of G which maketh rich
may ever abide with you